

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

by physical need, the desire for a comfortable home, loneliness and boredom, and the convenience of having an intermediary with the native population. These women cannot be classed as prostitutes, the more able among them have even attained to a definite status and prestige. Occasionally among the French permanently resident in the colony there were legal marriages, but this was not true of functionaries and other transients. Despite affection, the father often does not legitimize his children. Economic reasons or the desire to marry later in France prevents his taking them back when he goes, so he abandons them to their native mother, leaving with her some money for their support, which usually disappears as soon as he does. This amounts to virtual abandonment—understandable but also blameworthy. It is less hard on the mother, who can usually form another liaison, than on the children who are left without economic or legal support.

Eurasians enjoy the unpleasant reputation among Europeans of having retained only the vices of both races. From the outset they encounter these wounding prejudices. Some families refuse to send their children to schools which receive Eurasians. When admitted they are exposed to insults such as being called *sale metis* by their companions. Much of this hostility can be traced to the Frenchwomen's hatred of their *congade* rivals. There are, of course, courageous exceptions, but as a rule French society is closed to the half-breed. The native attitude is quite as hostile as the French. This is partly due to the Eurasian's contempt for his mother's people, which is more bitter than that of the whitest Aryan. They naturally retaliate by mocking him: he is a stranger in his own country. He becomes ashamed

even of his mother. The hatred of both peoples is embittering and in-
 spires him to revenge, particularly upon his father's people who refuse
 Mm admission as an equal. Knowing the native language and customs
 he **may** easily become the leader of a rebellion: he is the source of per-
 petual social and political *malaise*. If the Eurasian is a woman her lot is
 easier, **for** her status may be resolved by a marriage, wMch absorbs her
definitely is > one group or the other. More often, however, her career
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For **boys** there are few professional openings. For many years the
army, excepting **the** Foreign Legion, was closed to them. If perchance
 the Eurasian **should**: be financially successful Ms native family cHng to
leeches and drag Mm down. If it is hard for him to make
 headway professionally, it is even harder to create for himself a social
vaSfXL His aspirations and efforts naturally tend towards Ms aeept-